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PRESS RELEASE

Veterans home 'pays it forward' with patriotic float

Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home takes top honors in parade

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2013

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FLORESVILLE, Texas — FLORESVILLE, Texas – A team comprised of some of South Texas' most patriotic people took home top honors in a festival that draws large crowds to a small town near San Antonio.

The residents and staff of the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home in Floresville were awarded the Grand Champion award for their float in the 69th Annual Floresville Peanut Festival and Parade on Saturday, Oct. 12.

The float, titled "USO: Serving Troops Since 1941," featured both residents and staff dressed in military apparel and 1940s costumes — including a few dressed as the famous singing trio, The Andrews Sisters.

"Because so many of our residents were entertained by the USO while serving our country, we felt it was only fitting that we pay it forward by providing some entertainment to our beloved community," said Nanci Strubble, with the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home. "We're proud of our residents and staff for the hard work they put into this year's float."

The USO, or the United Service Organizations, is a nonprofit that provides live entertainment and services to U.S. troops and their families.

The Floresville Peanut Festival traces its roots to 1938, when locals decided to celebrate the peanut farming and harvesting industry of the community southwest of San Antonio. Though now an endangered crop in the area, the community celebration reaches into the future by providing funds for youth scholarships and by promoting tourism in this town of around 6,500.

The Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home became an integral part of the Floresville community when it opened in 2000. As one of the first four of the current eight State Veterans Homes built by the Texas Veterans Land Board, it provides first-class, long term care for up to 160 residents, including up to 32 Alzheimer's residents in a separate, secured unit.

Created and operated exclusively for Texas veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents, the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home offers superior care that is also Medicare and Medicaid certified.

For additional information on Texas State Veterans Homes and special home, land and home improvement loans for Texas veterans, call 800-252-VETS (800-252-8387) or visit the web site at www.texasveterans.com.

Photo caption: Staff of the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home perform as the 1940s singing group "The Andrews Sisters." Pictured (left to right) are Tiffany Lally, Daniella Lucio, and Courtney Gonzales. (Courtesy photo: Texas VLB. See e-mail attachment for higher resolution photo.)

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